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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Korea

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

25X1

SUBJECT Commodity Prices in North Korea

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REFERENCES

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1. [REDACTED] the following commodity prices were in effect in Chaeryŏng  
(N 38-24, E 125-37) [REDACTED] prices were in North Korean won:

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Unit<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Price</u>
Rice	one small mal	2,000
Rice, glutinous	one small mal	2,500
Green peas	one small mal	2,500
Red peas	one small mal	1,700
Beans	one small mal	900
Millet	one small mal	1,400
Sorghum	one small mal	600

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STATE	#X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	#X	AIR	#X	FBI		AEC				
CINCPAC# [REDACTED]														

(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#")

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<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Price</u>
Corn	one small mal	400
Barley	one small mal	1,500
Buckwheat	one small mal	1,500
Wheat flour	one kun	250
Beef	one kun	900
Pork	one kun	700
Penicillin, United States	one bottle	3,000
Mycin, United States	one bottle	7,000
Diazine, United States	one tablet	120
Aspirin, United States	one tablet	50
Morphine, Chinese	one ampule	200
Ring-worm medicine, Soviet	one tablet	150
Toothbrush, Chinese	each	800
Toothpaste, Chinese	one tube	500
Powder, facial, Chinese	one box	700
Cream, facial, Chinese	one jar	1,500
Soap, laundry, Chinese	one bar	350
Soap, toilet, Chinese	one bar	600
Cigarettes	one pack	200-400
Towel, Chinese	each	800
Sheeting, North Korean	one meter	1,000
Underwear, top, United States	each	6,000
Underwear, top, Chinese	each	5,000
Underwear, bottom, Chinese	each	4,000
T-shirt, North Korean	each	1,000
Shorts, North Korean	each	800
Socks, Chinese	one pair	400
Cloth shoes, Chinese	one pair	4,500
Cloth shoes, North Korean	one pair	2,500

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<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Price</u>
Rubber shoes, womens', North Korean	one pair	3,000
Boots, Czechoslovakian	one pair	7,000
Wristwatch, Swiss, 17 jewels	each	50,000
Fountain pen, United States, 14 carat	each	20,000
Fountain pen, Chinese	each	5,000
Cigarette lighter, Chinese	each	4,000
Cigarette lighter, United States	each	9,000
Flint	each	50
Pen point, North Korean	each	10
Pencil	each	150
Paper, North Korean	one sheet	150
Photographs for identification card	three	300
Gold	one tongchung	12,000
Lightbulb, 60-W, North Korean	each	2,000
Needle, sewing, Chinese	each	10
Thread, sewing	5,000 yards	3,000
Gasoline	5 gallons	5,000
Kerosene	5 gallons	9,000
Oil, engine	5 gallons	12,000

2. [ ] the following commodity prices were in effect in Hamhung; prices were in North Korean won:

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Unit<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Price</u>
Rice	one small mal	800
Millet	one small mal	750
Sorghum	one small mal	600
Barley	one small mal	650
Soybeans	one small mal	600
Soybean paste	one kilogram	30
Salt	one kilogram	25

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<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Price</u>
Sauce, Korean	four hops	30
Beef	one kun	250
Pork	one kun	200
Pollack, dried	20	300
Oil, sesame	two hops	300
Liquor, Korean	one toe	1,170
Toothbrush with bamboo handle	each	70
Soap, laundry	one bar	200
Cotton cloth, fine woven	one meter	570
Cotton cloth, coarse	20 feet	2,300
Underwear, cotton, Hungarian	one set	5,600
Socks	one pair	200-300
Towel, United States	each	700
Sneakers	one pair	580
Rubber shoes, womens'	one pair	1,200
Rubber shoes, mens'	one pair	1,400
Tobacco	100 grams	30
Matches	one pack	15
Wall paper, white	one sheet	15
Pencil, Hungarian	each	70
Ink	four hops	90

- 25X1 3. [ ] the following commodity prices were in effect in Kaesong; prices were in North Korean won:

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Price</u>
Rice	one small mal	1,400
Millet	one small mal	1,300
Cigarettes, Chinese	one pack	250-300
Cigarettes, North Korean	one pack	100
Tobacco, Consumers' Guild Price	.4 pound	50
Tobacco, market price	.4 pound	100

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<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Price</u>
Soap, laundry, Chinese	one small bar	300
Soap, laundry, Chinese	one large bar	600
Soap, toilet, Chinese	one bar	700
Soap, laundry, North Korean	one bar	250
Soap, toilet, North Korean	one bar	250
Towel, Chinese	each	500
Cotton cloth, Chinese	one yard	800
Cotton cloth, North Korean	one yard	700
Canvas shoes, sport, Chinese	one pair	2,000
Canvas shoes, sport, North Korean	one pair	1,000
Rubber shoes, mens', black, North Korean	one pair	1,200
Rubber shoes, womens', black, South Korean	one pair	1,100
Rubber shoes, mens', white	one pair	1,700
Rubber shoes, womens', white	one pair	2,000
Rubber shoes, mens', black, North Korean, market price	one pair	700
Rubber shoes, mens', black, North Korean, Consumers' Guild Price	one pair	400
Rubber shoes, womens', black, North Korean, Consumers' Guild Price	one pair	200
Wristwatch, Swiss, 17 jewels	each	30,000
Wristwatch, Chinese	each	20,000
Gold	one tongchung	11,000

4. [ ] the following commodity prices were in effect in markets and the Consumers' Guild in the Hongwon (N 40-02, E 127-57) [ ] area; the prices were in North Korean won:

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Unit<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Price</u>
Rice	one mal	2,000
Millet	one mal	1,200
Beans, red	one mal	1,400
Beans, soy	one mal	1,200

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<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Price</u>
Soy mash	one toe	100
Bean mash, high quality	one toe	100
Bean mash, low quality	one toe	60
Pepper	one toe	350
Fish, pollack	20	400
Fish, flatfish	20	300
Beef	one kun	240
Pork	one kun	250
Chicken	each	600
Eggs	each	18
Spaghetti	one bowl	100
Rice with stew	one bowl	100
Bull, first grade	one head	70,000
Apples	each	4
Candy, millet	one bowl	200
Soap, laundry	one bar	200
Soap, toilet, Chinese-made	one bar	350
Socks	one pair	250
Undershirts, cotton	each	1,800
Cloth, cotton	one meter	400
Shoes, white rubber, womens'	one pair	2,000
Shoes, black rubber, womens'	one pair	1,400
Shoes, black rubber, mens'	one pair	1,500
Shoes, black rubber, childrens'	one pair	700
Shoes, canvas, work	one pair	1,000
Shoes, sport, Chinese-made	one pair	3,000
Platinum	one tongchung	7,000
Gold	one tongchung	6,500
Silver	one tongchung	1,000

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<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Price</u>
Lumber, high grade	15 cha	3,000
Lumber, medium grade	15 cha	2,000
Lumber, low grade	15 cha	1,500
Firewood	one p'yong	1,000
Diazine	one tablet	50
Mycin	one bottle	7,000
Opium	10 tongchung	5,000
Penicillin	one bottle	2,500
Wine, Consumers' Guild Price	one toe	1,175
Wine	one toe	2,000

5. [ ] 1953 the Najin (N 42-15, E 130-19) [ ] market place was at 25X1  
 [ ] and covered an area of 1,000 square meters. a Consumers' Guild and 25X1  
 National Store were in the market place. [ ] the following commodity  
 prices were in effect in the Najin market; the prices listed were in North  
 Korean won:

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Unit<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Price</u>
Rice	18 pounds	1,600
Millet	18 pounds	1,200
Barley	18 pounds	800
Beans, red	18 pounds	1,000
Beans	18 pounds	700
Flour	one tongchung	1,000
Eggs	each	20
Meat	100 tongchung	100
Pork	100 tongchung	120
Bean oil	one toe	1,200
Wine, Korean	one toe	1,350
Noodles, cold	one bowl	80
Rice, hot	one bowl	100
Barber fee		50
Shoes, white rubber, womens'	one pair	2,800

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<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Price</u>
Shoes, black rubber	one pair	1,200
Shoes, basketball, Chinese	one pair	1,500
Shoes, tennis, Chinese	one pair	3,600
Shoes, leather, womens', Chinese	one pair	5,000
Stockings, womens', Chinese	one pair	500
Gloves, Chinese	one pair	600
Towel, Chinese	each	500
Soap, toilet, Chinese	one bar	350
Soap, laundry, Chinese	one bar	300
Cream, facial, Chinese	one jar	1,300
Powder, facial, Chinese	one box	1,200
Toothbrush, Chinese	each	250
Toothpaste, Chinese	one tube	250
Cigarettes, Chinese	one pack	250
Cotton sheeting, white, Chinese	one yard	700
Cotton sheeting, black, Chinese	one yard	900
Cotton sheeting, purple, Chinese	one yard	1,000
Cotton cloth, Korean, first grade	12 yards	3,500
Cotton cloth, Korean, second grade	12 yards	2,500
Charcoal	one bag	400
Coal	one ton	4,500
Fuel wood	one ox-cart	1,200

1   Comment. One small mal is equivalent to 1.03 pecks; one large mal is equivalent to 2.06 pecks; one hop is equivalent to .16 quart; one toe is equivalent to .48 gallon; one kun is equivalent to 21.16 ounces; one tongchung is equivalent to .13 ounce; one p'yong is equivalent to 3.95 square yards; and one cha is equivalent to .99 foot.

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